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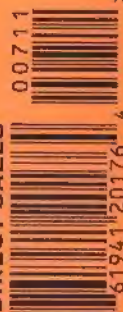
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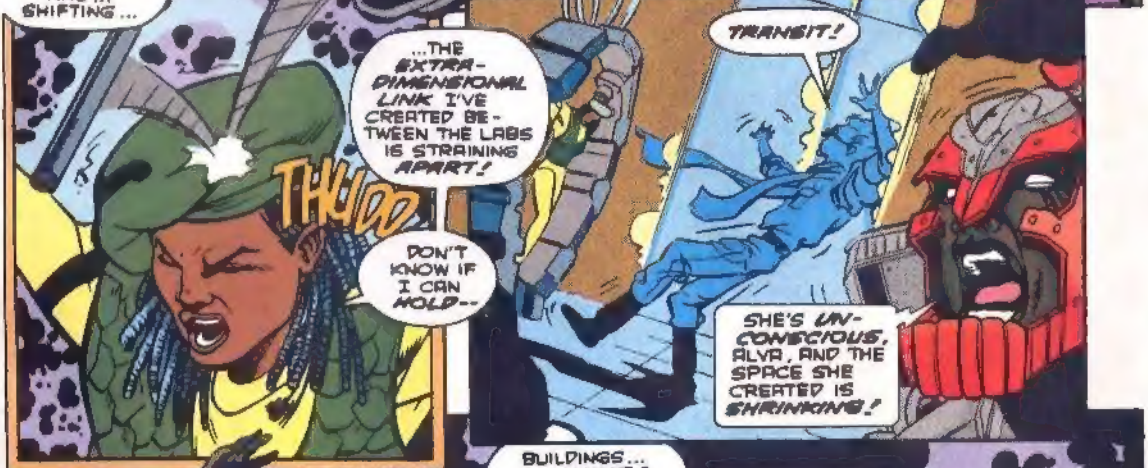
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RRRRR! ARMOR'S AS GOOD AS NEW, HARDWARE! MAYBE BETTER, THANKS TO-- RRUMMBLE!



DAKOTA AND METROPOLIS ARE SHIFTING...



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nom deplume scan

"--RIFT!"

OBSERVE,
SUPERMAN AND
LOON! DAKOTA
AND METROPOLIS
ARE NOW ONE!

AS
ARE THE
LABORATORIES
WHERE I WAS
POKED AND
PRODDED AND
EXPERIMENTED
ON.

BUT IT
IS NOW
MY TURN
TO EXPERI-
MENT!

AS YOU
SEE, I HAVE
WILLED
THAT YOU SHARE
A SINGLE
UNIVERSE!

IT WILL
BE QUITE A
CHALLENGE,
NOW, DECIDING
WHICH PARTS
TO KEEP...

...AND
WHICH TO
DESTROY.

AT RIFT'S WORDS, THE
GROUND TWISTS AND
SHIFTS AS SEPARATE
DIMENSIONS SLAM
TOGETHER...

...AND WATER
POURS LIKE A
BAPTISM FROM
THE FLOODED
DAKOTA INTO
METROPOLIS
AS --

WORLDS COLLIDE

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STEEL CREATED BY JON BOGDANOVE AND LOUISE
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LOOK
AROUND
US, ALVA.

OUR LABS...
YOURS AND
MINE... HAVE
BEEN ROUGHLY
... **VERY**
ROUGHLY...
CONNECTED.

IT SEEMS
YOU'RE **RIGHT.**
THIS IS NO INTER-
DIMENSIONAL
POCKET.

IT'S **REALITY...**
OR WHAT
AWSES FOR
IT THESE
DAYS.

ONLY THIS
JOINING
ISN'T AS
SEAMLESS
AS TRANSIT'S
WAS.

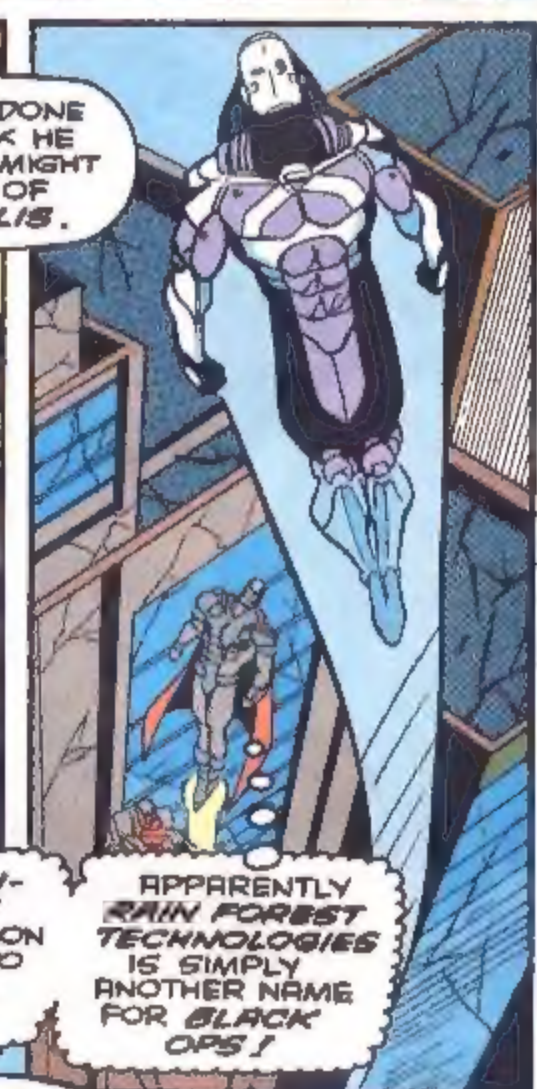
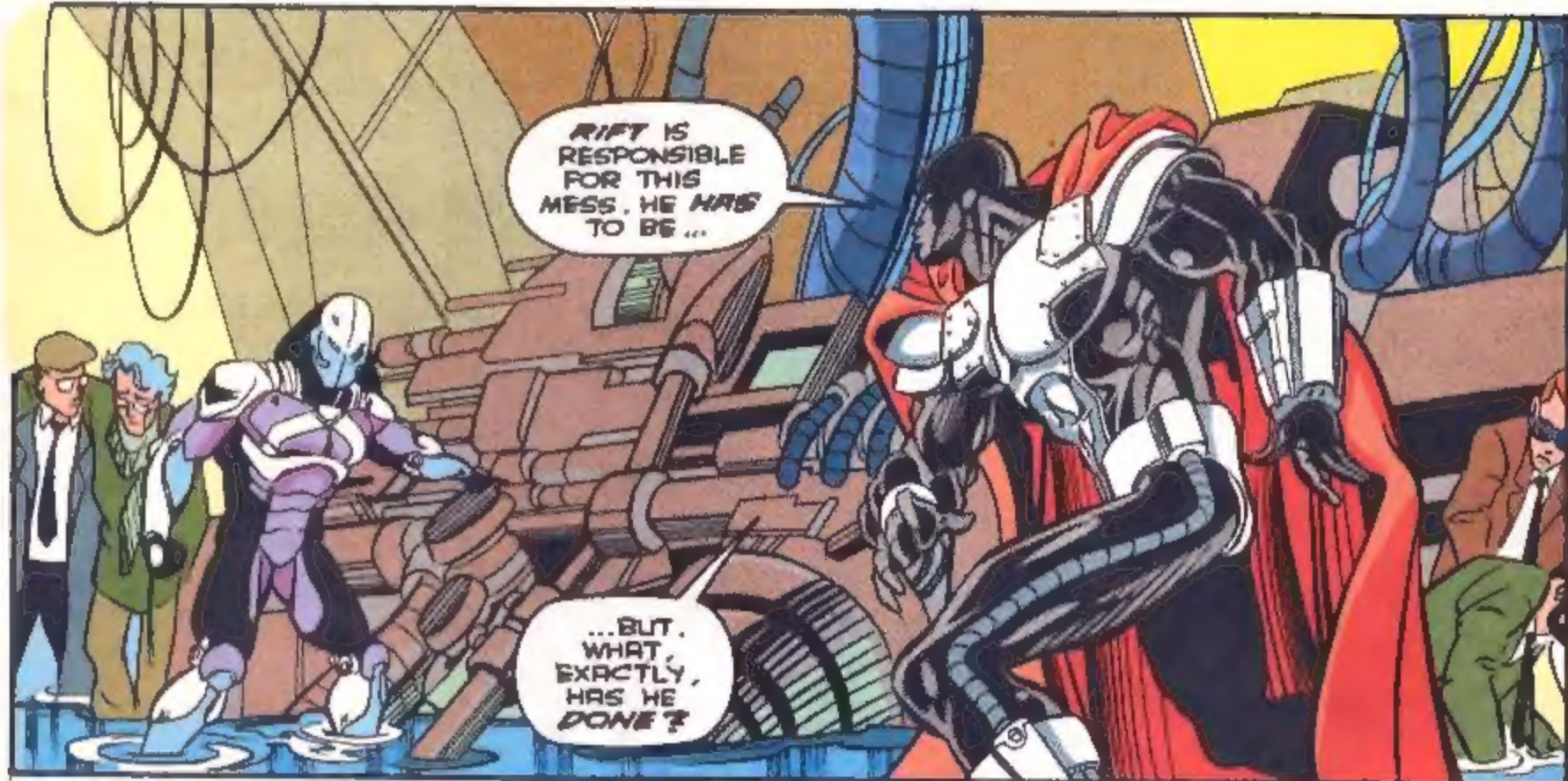
NOT BY
A LONG
SHOT.



SEA
WATER...
FLOODING
INTO THE LABS
THROUGH
GAPS IN THE
WALLS!

AND THE
WEAPON
WE'VE BEEN
WORKING
ON HAS
TOPPLED...

...AND
LIES HALF
BURIED
IN THE
FLOOD.





IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT TO SQUABBLE OVER.

IT APPEARS THAT RIFT PLANS TO SAVE US THE EFFORT OF FURTHER BATTLES AMONGST OURSELVES.



YOU -- SUPERMAN AND ICON -- THE HEROES OF YOUR RESPECTIVE DIMENSIONS, EACH CLAIM YOUR WORLD IS REAL.

NOW, I'VE JOINED THEM. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REDUNDANT ELEMENTS...



...BUT I'LL SORT OUT THESE "CONTINUITY PROBLEMS" AS I GO ALONG.

LOIS! WHERE IS SHE?

GOOD! SHE'S ON THE UPPER FLOOR OF THE PRINTING PLANT IN QUEENSLAND!

SHE'S WITH PERRY AND THE OTHERS! THEY'RE SAFE. AT LEAST FOR NOW.



GLAD
TO **SEE**
YOU HERE,
STEEL.

YOU'RE AWARE
THAT RIFT THINKS
HE **CREATED**
BOTH THE UNI-
VERSE THAT
HOLDS **DAKOTA**
AND THE ONE
THAT HOLDS
METROPOLIS?

HE NOW
BELIEVES
THAT THEY
ARE TOO
SIMILAR,
AND SO HE
HAS **COM-
BINED**
THEM.

HE
COMBINED
OUR
WORLDS
...?

IS THIS FOR
REAL? IT SEEMS
IMPOSSIBLE THAT
HE **CREATED**
US!

I KNOW.
I DOUBT
HE HAS THE
INTELLECT.

BUT HE DOES
HAVE MORE
THAN ENOUGH
POWER TO
DESTROY US.

IN MY HUMAN
IDENTITY, I
WAS TORTURED
BY BOTH **ALVA**
AND **HAZARD**.

THE FIRST
PROBLEM I'LL
ADDRESS WILL
BE THAT OF
THE **SUPER-
VILLAINS**.

IF HE
OBLITERATES
WHAT'S LEFT
OF YOUR
**HEADQUAR-
TERS** HE'LL
DESTROY THE
WEAPON
THAT COULD
ANNIHILATE
HIM.

WE'LL HAVE
TO **DISTRACT**
HIM TILL WE
CAN GET THE
WEAPON OUT
OF THERE.

WHILE IN
THE FLOODED
DAKOTA...

METROPOLIS
IS BEHIND US,
ROCKET... OR
WHAT'S LEFT
OF IT!

RIFT ACTUALLY
SLAMMED OUR
WORLDS TO-
GETHER!

FAR AS
I CAN SEE,
NOBODY
ELSE IS
ALIVE,
SUPERBOY!

THERE'S
GOT TO
BE MORE
PEOPLE!

WHICH
WAY IS
SADLER?

YOU'RE
IN SADLER!
IT'S LOW...
BY THE
RIVER.

IT WAS
DESTROYED
BY THE TIDAL
WAVE!

SADLER...
HERE?! NO!
IT CAN'T BE.
I LIVE IN
SADLER!

MY FAMILY!
MY SISTER!
MY FRIENDS!
GONE! ALL
GONE!

OH NO!
NOT
FRIEDA!

STATIC...?

FRIEDA!



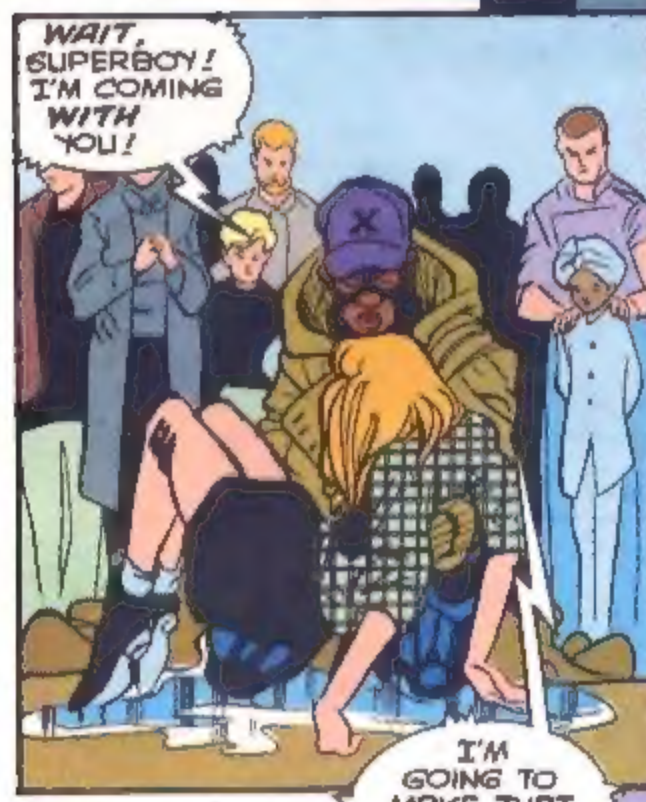
BEHIND US!
IT'S ICON
AND HARD-
WARE!

THE FIRST
THING TO GO
WILL BE THE
VILLAINS'
LABS!

AND
SUPER-
MAN AND
STEEL!

DON'T
KNOW THE
LONG-
HAIR-
ED GUY IN THE
ARMOR...

... BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE
THEY'RE PLAN-
NING TO TAKE
RIFT ON!



WAIT,
SUPERBOY!
I'M COMING
WITH
YOU!

I'M
GOING TO
MAKE THAT
MONSTER
PAY.



MY MOM
IS GONE, TOO.
AND MY GRAND-
MOTHER.

WE HAVE
TO STOP
RIFT BEFORE
MILLIONS
MORE PEOPLE
DIE.



HE'S
REACHING
TOWARD THE
LABS.

WE'VE GOT
TO GET THE
WEAPON OUT
OF THERE AND
HIDDEN BEFORE
HE DESTROYS
IT.



SUPERMAN,
YOU AND
ICON ARE THE
ONLY ONES WHO
CAN CARRY THE
WEAPON.

HAZARD, IF
YOU'LL SHOW
THEM THE WAY
TO THE LAB...

...WE'LL
DO WHAT
WE CAN TO
DISTRACT
HIM!



BAPP

WHAT'S THIS? A LITTLE STINGING INSECT!

WE'LL DISTRACT THAT *#@, ALL RIGHT!

AND IF I BURN HIS BUTT IN THE PROCESS, ALL THE BETTER!

WAIT! WE NEED A PLAN OR HE'LL DESTROY US--ONE BY ONE!

THERE ISN'T TIME TO MAKE A PLAN!

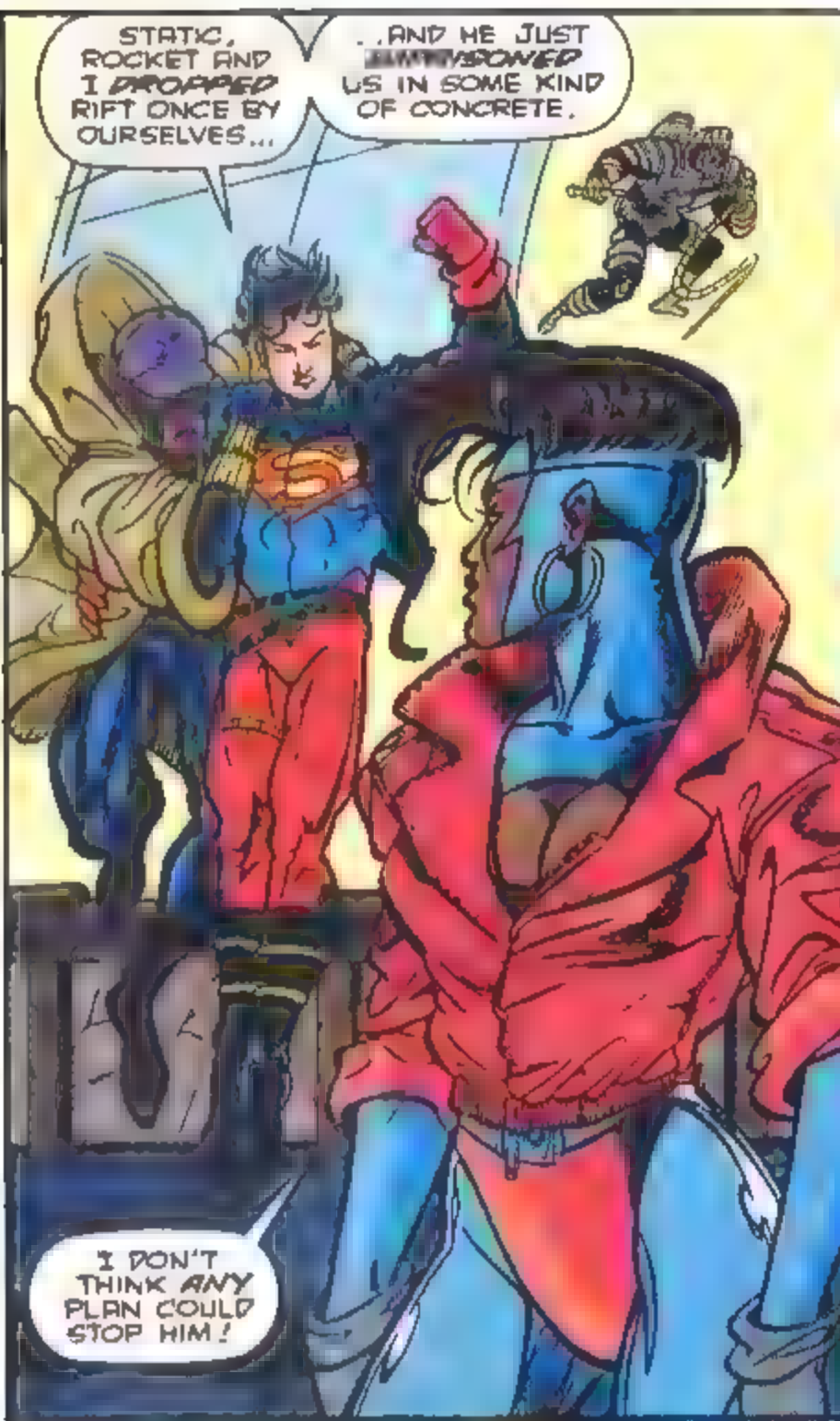
I'VE GOT HIM!

HE DISTRACTED RIFT, AND HE'S RIGHT ABOUT THE NEED TO STRIKE FAST!

I JUST HOPE HE DIDN'T PAY FOR HIS BRAVERY WITH HIS LIFE.

STATIC BOUGHT US SOME TIME, LET'S MAKE IT COUNT!

COME! THE LAB IS THIS WAY!



STATIC, ROCKET AND I **DROPPED** RIFT ONCE BY OURSELVES...

...AND HE JUST **IMPRISONED** US IN SOME KIND OF CONCRETE.

I DON'T THINK ANY PLAN COULD STOP HIM!



WE DON'T HAVE TO **STOP** HIM. NOT NOW!

OUR **JOB** IS TO KEEP HIM FROM DESTROYING THE **LABS**...

...WHILE **SUPERMAN** AND **ICON** SALVAGE THE **WEAPON**!

RIFT IS EXTREMELY **POWERFUL**...

...BUT **SUPERMAN** AND **ICON** DON'T THINK HE'S ALL THAT **BRIGHT**.



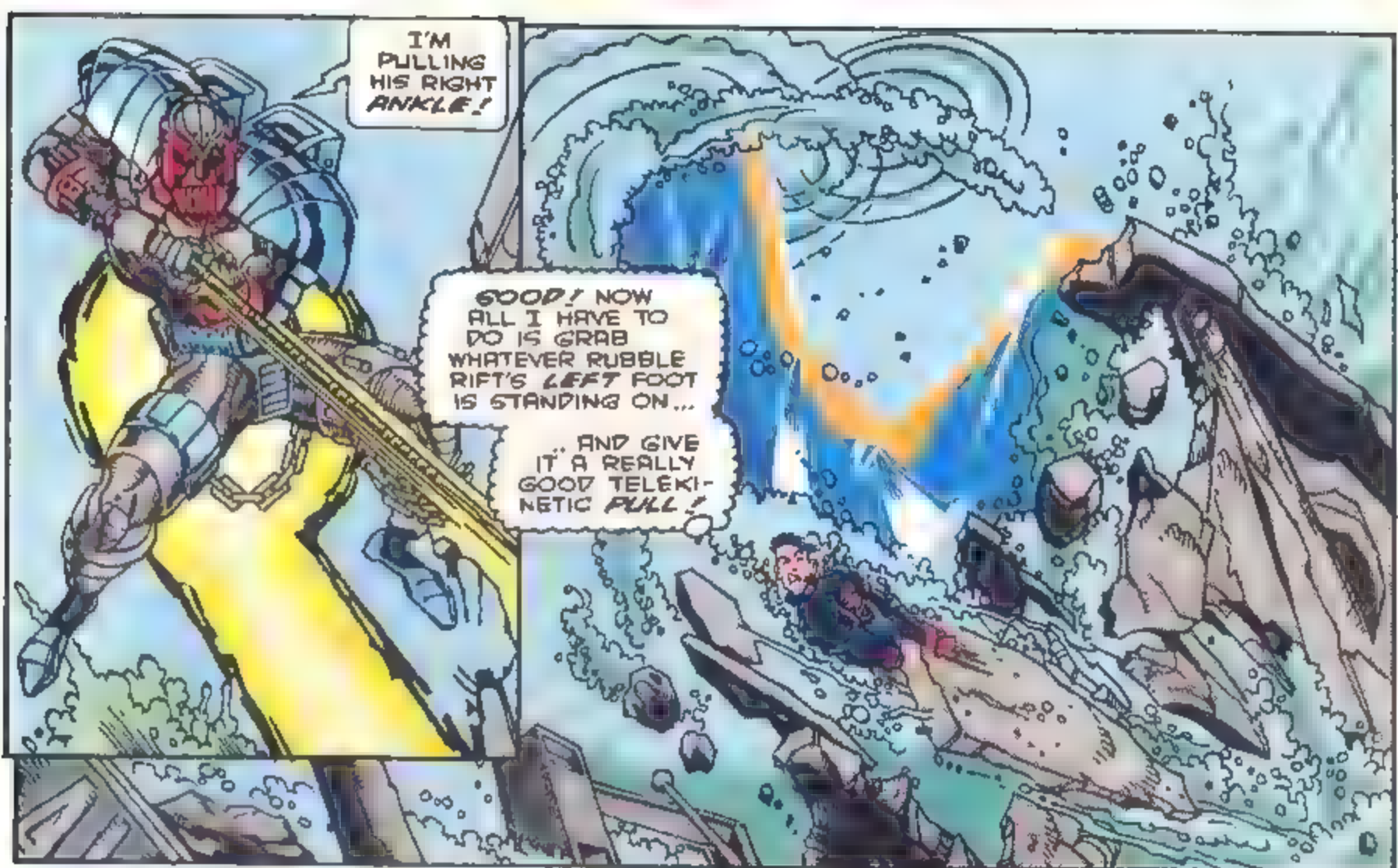
I GET IT. WE **KNOCK** HIM DOWN AND **DISTRACT** HIM...

...**ANY WAY** AS POSSIBLE, FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!



KEEP HIM TOO **DISTRACTED** TO THINK OF IMPRISONING US.

AND PRAY WE CAN HOLD ON LONG ENOUGH FOR **SUPERMAN** AND **ICON** TO GET THEIR **JOB** DONE!



I'M
PULLING
HIS RIGHT
ANKLE!

GOOD! NOW
ALL I HAVE TO
DO IS GRAB
WHATEVER RUBBLE
RIFT'S LEFT FOOT
IS STANDING ON...

... AND GIVE
IT A REALLY
GOOD TELEKI-
NETIC PULL!



THEY
DID IT! HE'S
STAGGERING
BACK!

POW!

THOOM!
THOOM!

THOOM!

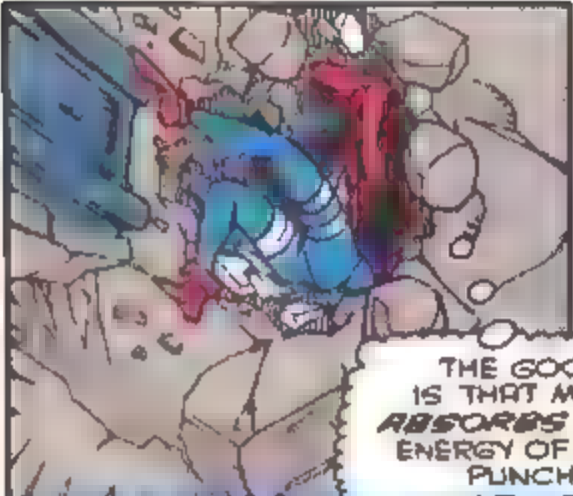
NOW WE
HIT HIM, AS
HARD AS
WE CAN WITH
EVERYTHING
WE'VE GOT!



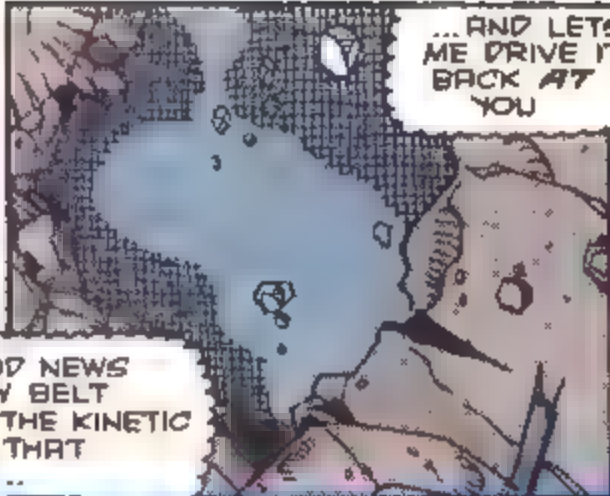
WE DID
IT! RIFT IS
FALLING!

ROCKET?

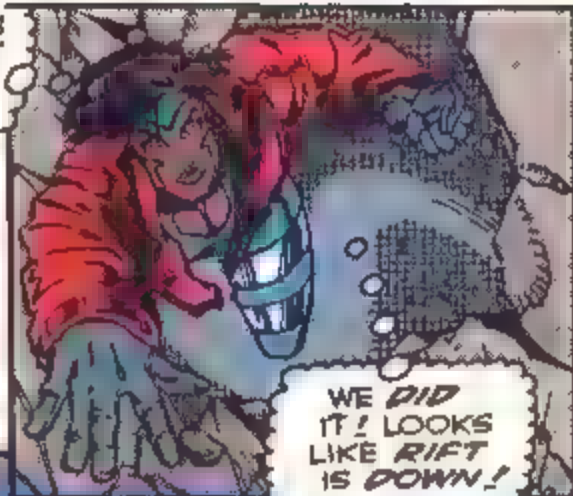
DON'T MIND ME.
I CAN'T FLY.



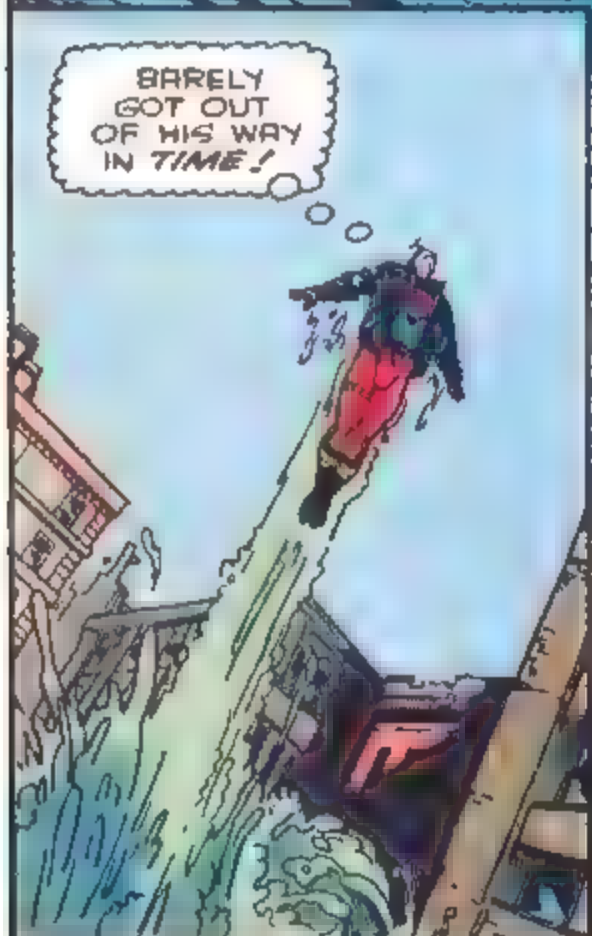
THE GOOD NEWS
IS THAT MY BELT
ABSORBS THE KINETIC
ENERGY OF THAT
PUNCH ..



... AND LETS
ME DRIVE IT
BACK AT
YOU



WE **DID**
IT! LOOKS
LIKE **RIFT**
IS **DOWN!**



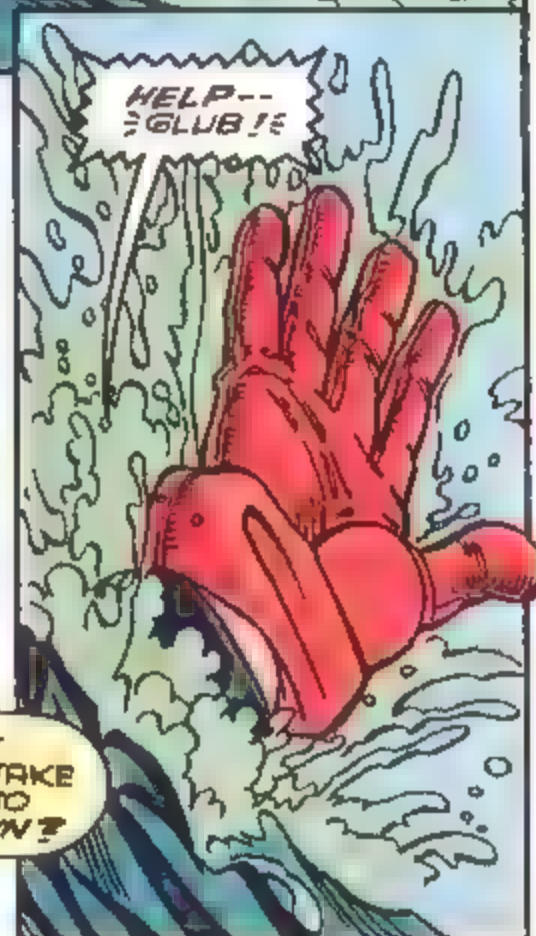
BARELY
GOT OUT
OF HIS WAY
IN TIME!



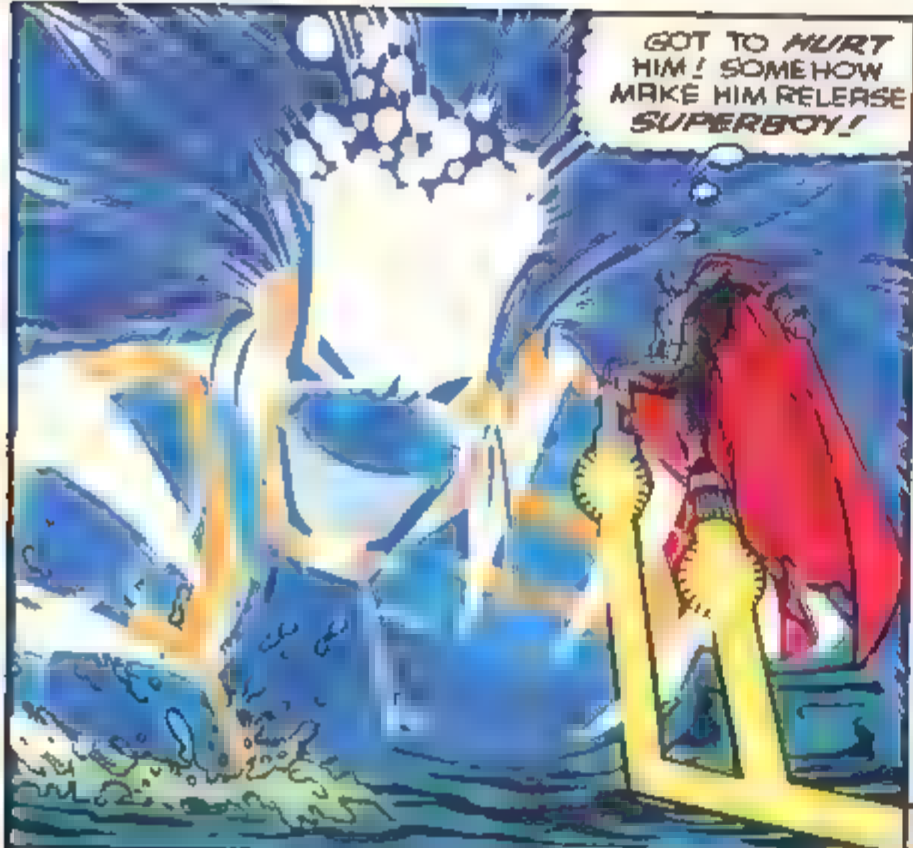
SUPERBOY!
HOW GOOD
OF YOU TO
JOIN US!

I
WONDER
JUST HOW
LONG...

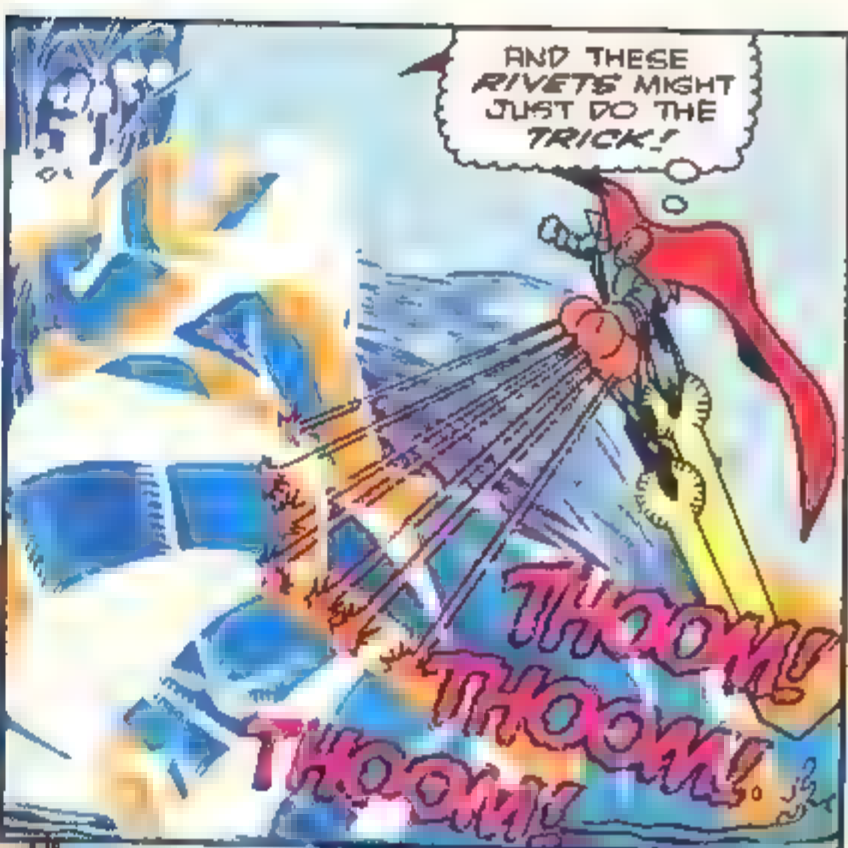
... IT
WILL TAKE
YOU TO
DROWN?



HELP--
GLUB!

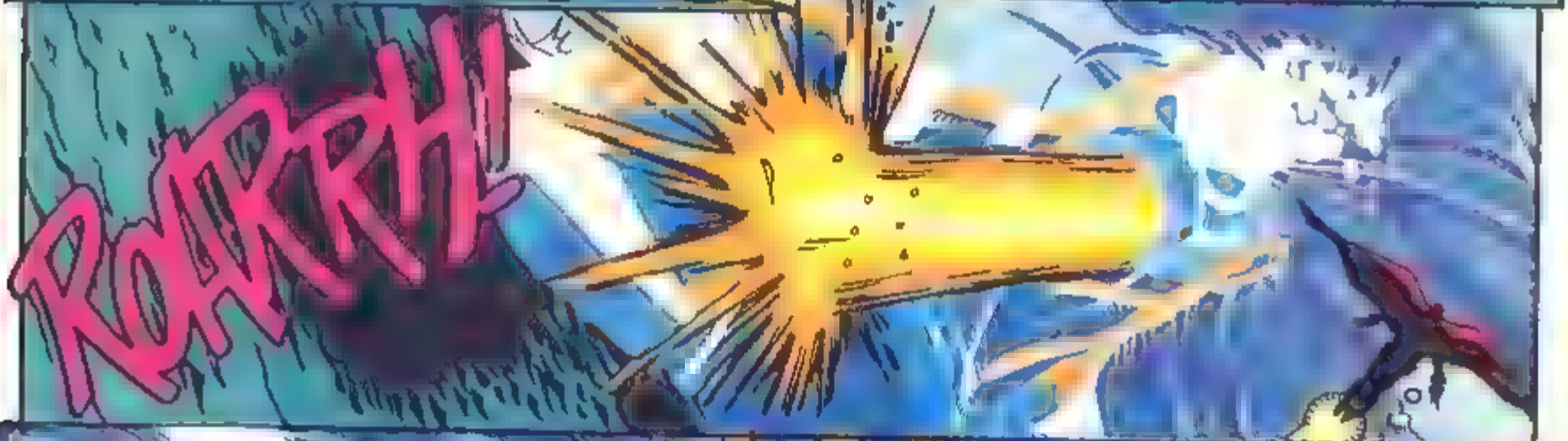


GOT TO HURT HIM! SOMEHOW MAKE HIM RELEASE SUPERBOY!



AND THESE RIVETS MIGHT JUST DO THE TRICK!

THOOM!
THOOM!
THOOM!

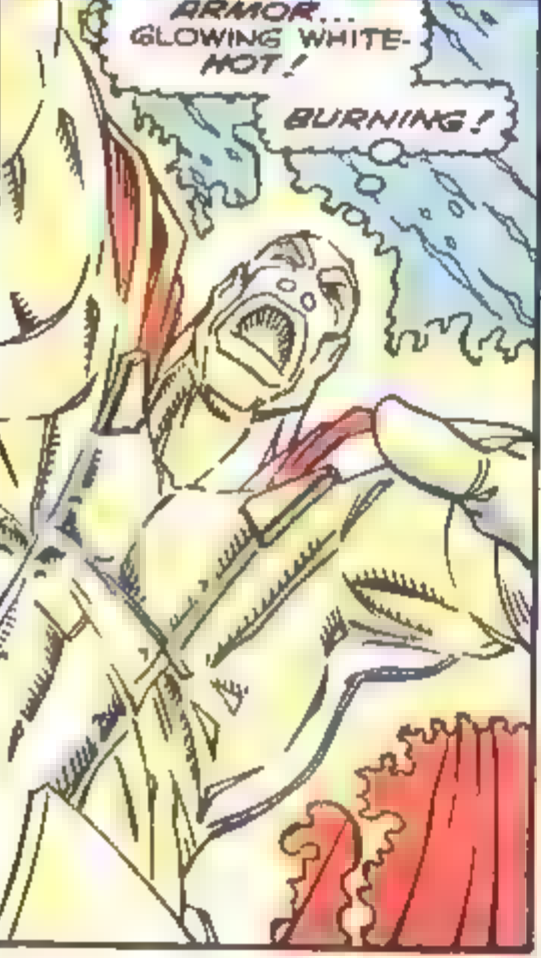


ROARRR!



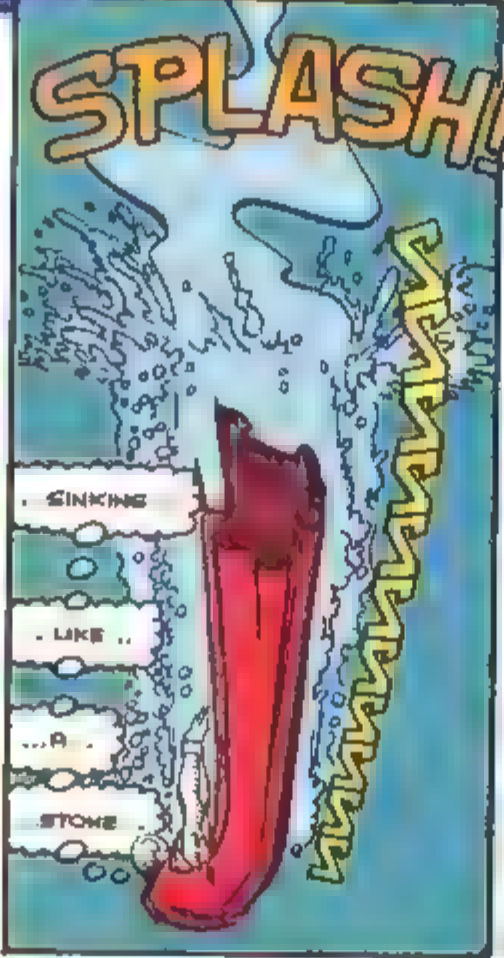
HE MELTED THE RIVETS!

AND NOW... HE'S TURNED HIS BLAST ON ME!



ARMOR... GLOWING WHITE-HOT!

BURNING!



SPLASH!

SINKING

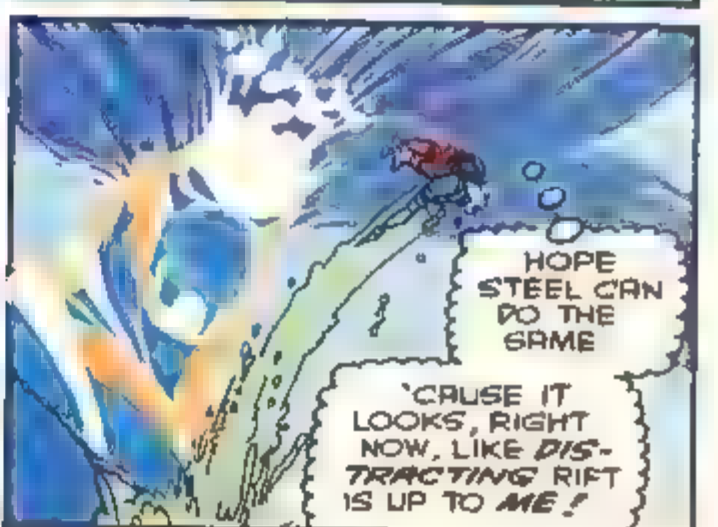
...LIKE...

...A...

STONE



HELD MY BREATH TILL I HIT BOTTOM AND COULD LEAP BACK UP!



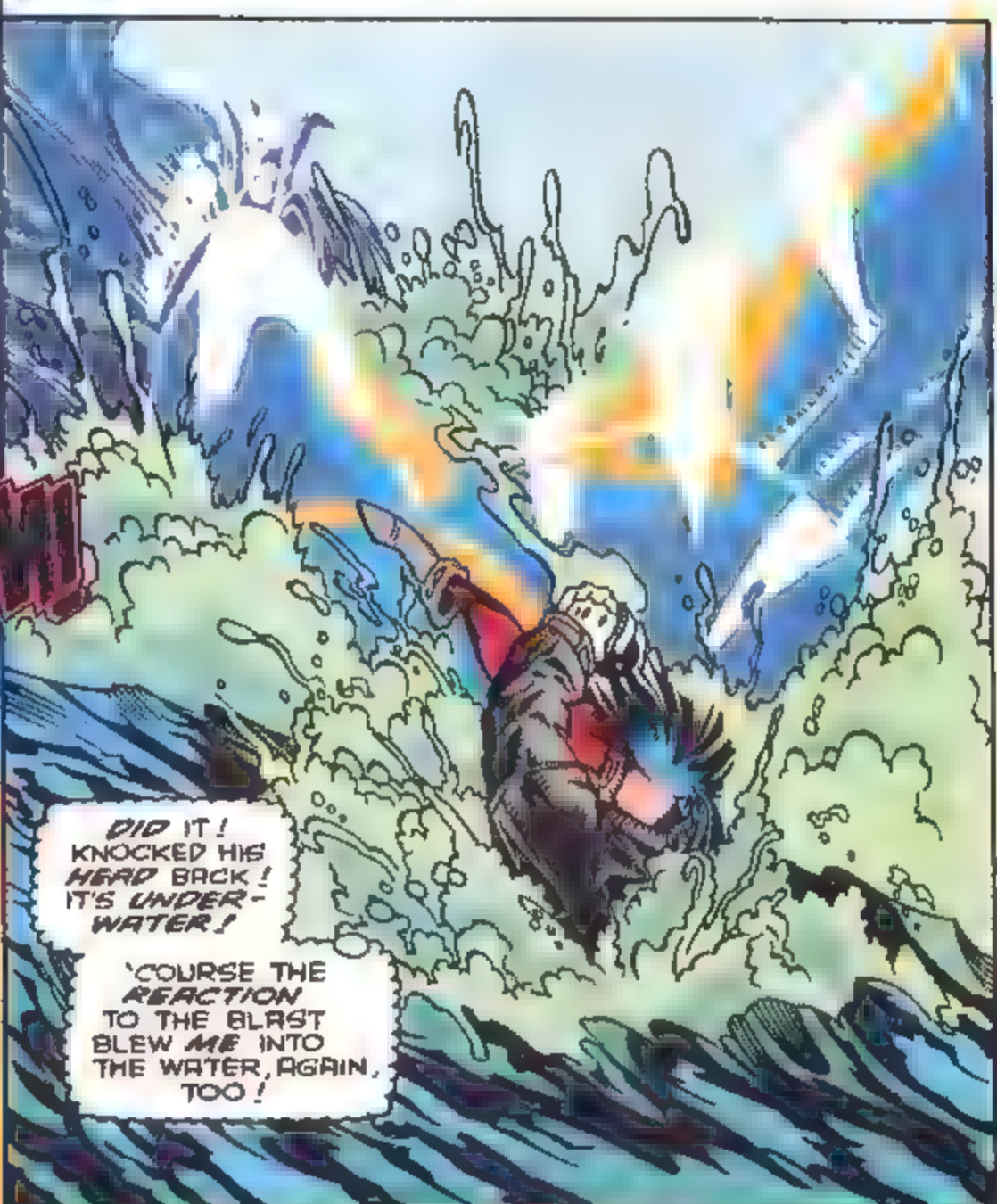
HOPE STEEL CAN DO THE SAME

'CAUSE IT LOOKS, RIGHT NOW, LIKE DISTRACTING RIFT IS UP TO ME!



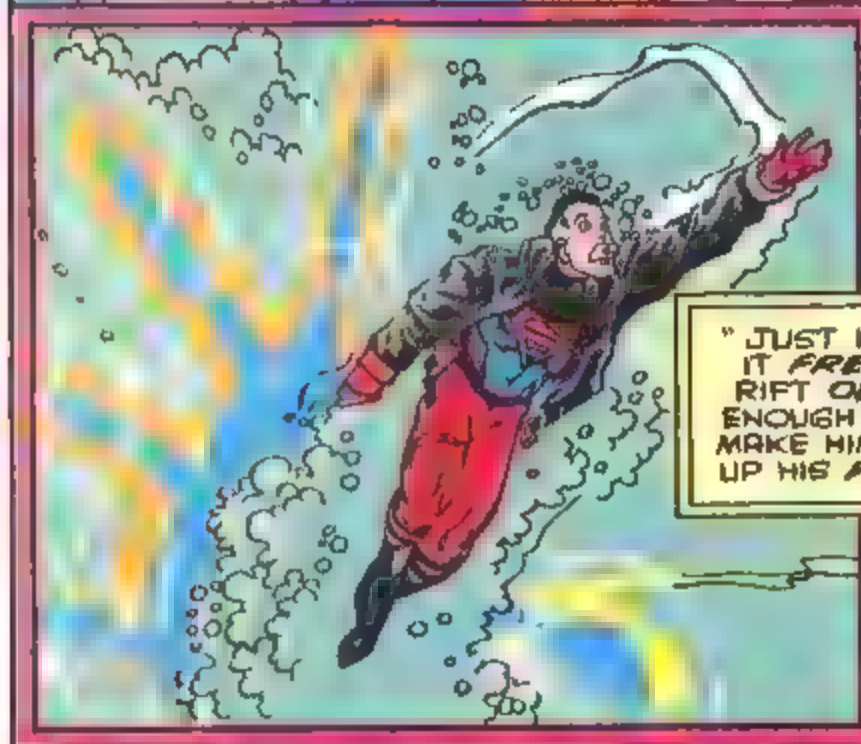
HAVE
TO LAND
ON RIFT'S
CHEST--
THAT'S
THE WAY...

... AND
DISCHARGE
MY ENERGY
AT HIS
CHIN... LIKE
A GIGANTIC
PUNCH!



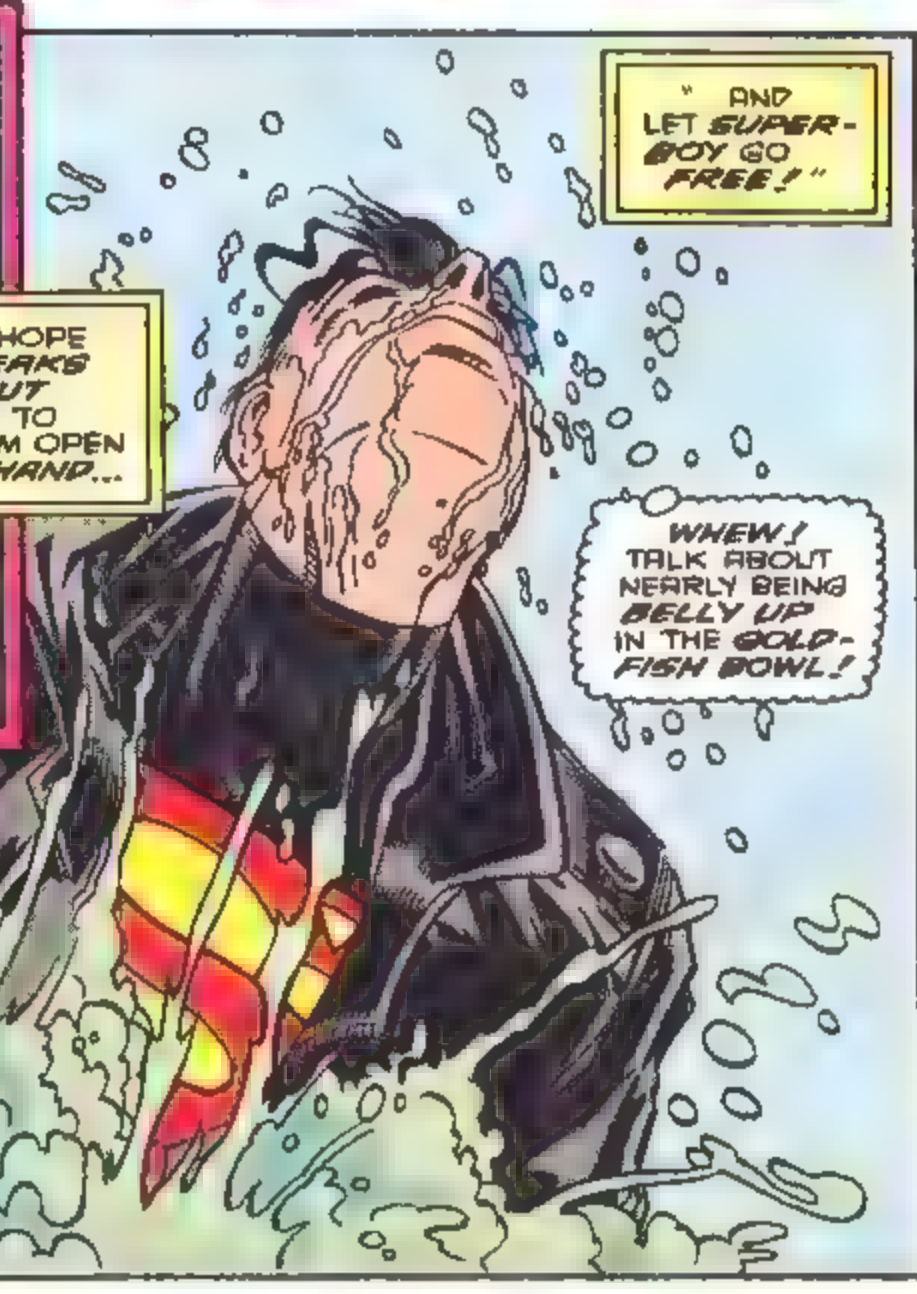
DID IT!
KNOCKED HIS
HEAD BACK!
IT'S UNDER-
WATER!

'COURSE THE
REACTION
TO THE BLAST
BLEW ME INTO
THE WATER, AGAIN,
TOO!

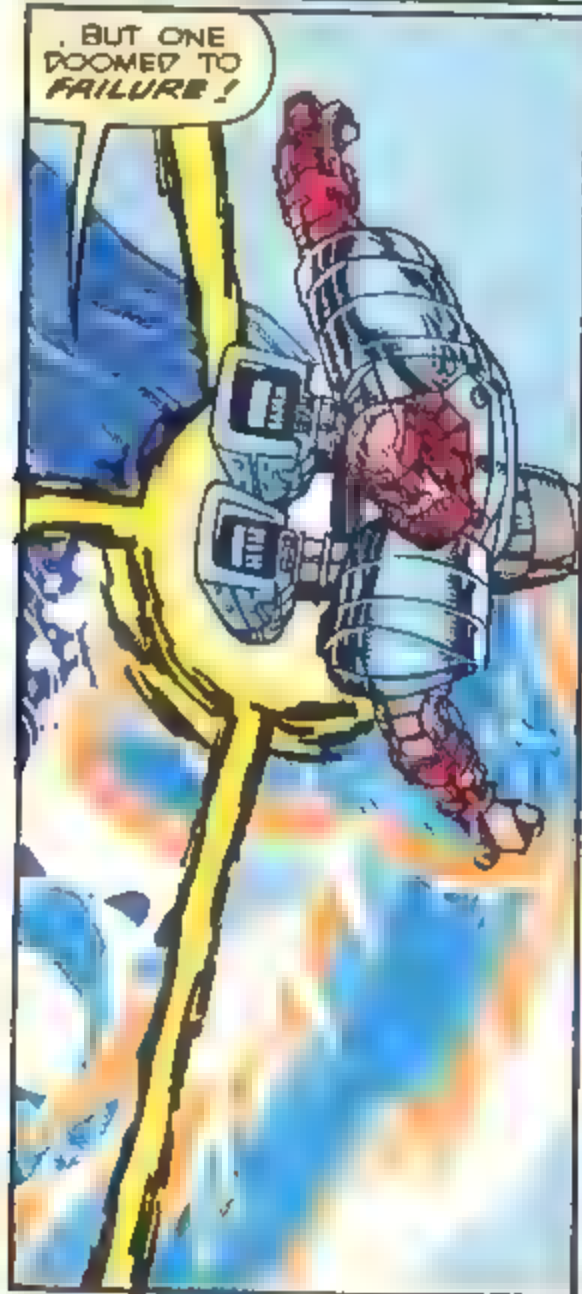


" AND
LET SUPER-
BOY GO
FREE!"

" JUST HOPE
IT *FREAKS*
RIFT OUT
ENOUGH TO
MAKE HIM OPEN
UP HIS *HAND*...



WHEW!
TALK ABOUT
NEARLY BEING
BELLY UP
IN THE GOLD-
FISH BOWL!



NOT A CHANCE!

Neuroi
net shell:
DEPLOYED.

AN
EXCELLENT
TEMPORARY
PLOY...

**BUT ONE
DOOMED TO
FAILURE!**

STATIC!
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
DOWN FOR THE
COUNT!

**I SEE
HIM!
STEEL!**

HOPE
ACON AND
SUPERMAN
ARE MOVING
IT ALONG...

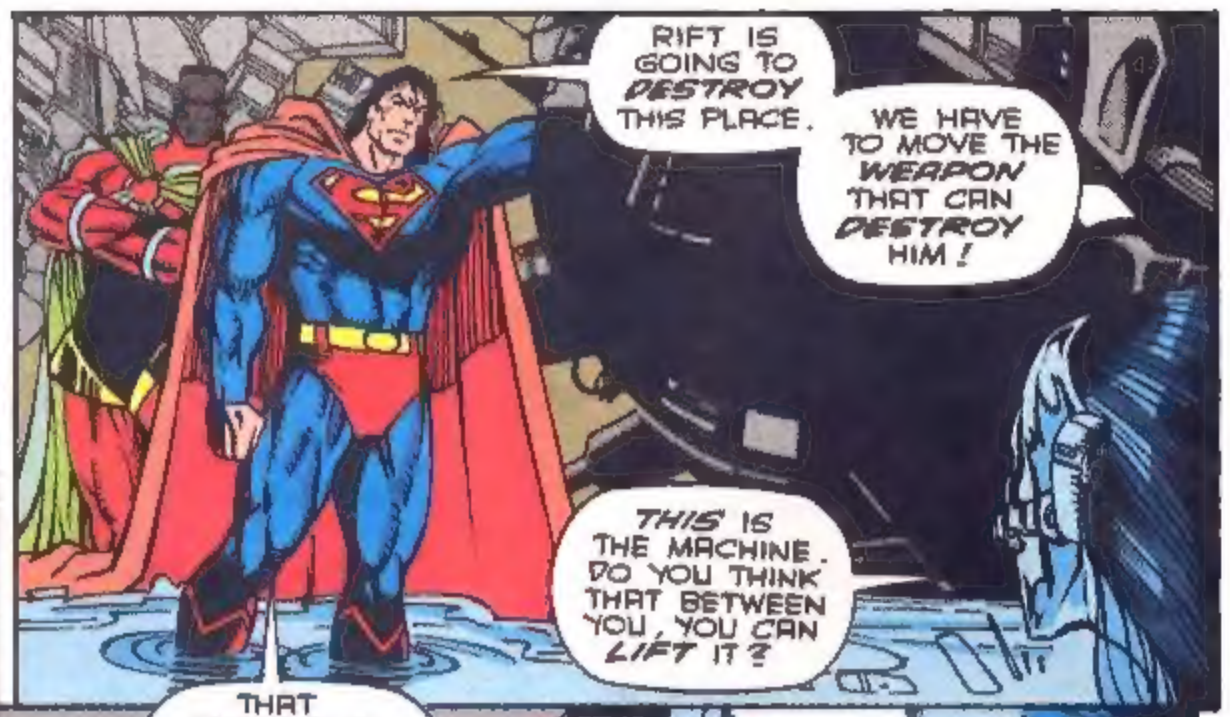
.. 'CAUSE
I DON'T THINK
WE CAN TAKE
MUCH MORE!



WHILE IN THE COMBINED LABS...

ICON... AND CAN THIS BE SUPERMAN? FASCINATING!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



RIFT IS GOING TO DESTROY THIS PLACE.

WE HAVE TO MOVE THE WEAPON THAT CAN DESTROY HIM!

THIS IS THE MACHINE. DO YOU THINK THAT BETWEEN YOU, YOU CAN LIFT IT?



THAT SHOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM.

BUT HOW WILL YOU GET IT OUT OF HERE?



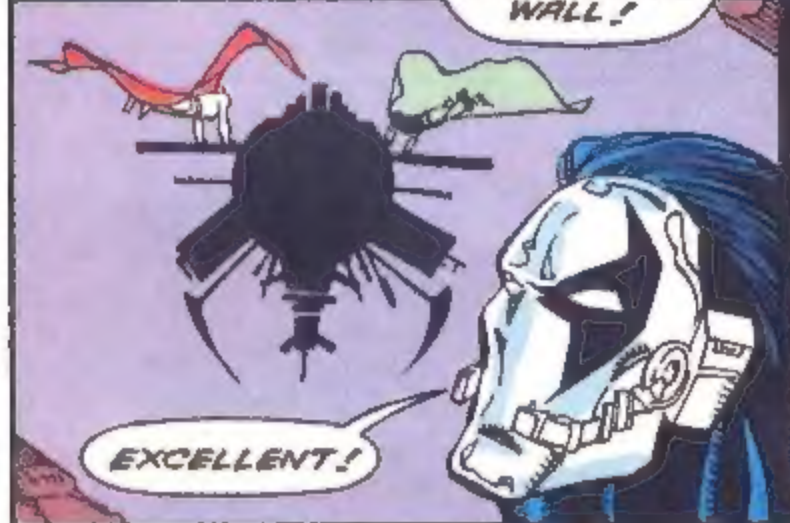
THIS IS THE WALL THAT FACES AWAY FROM RIFT?

BY MY RECKONING.

KRASH!

GOOD.

WE'LL TAKE IT THROUGH THE WALL!



EXCELLENT!



AND NOW...

...WE SHOULD ALL CONSIDER LEAVING HERE AS WELL!

AND OUTSIDE...

NOT BAD,
PERHAPS I'LL
KEEP YOU
HERE, IN THIS NEW
UNIVERSE.

OR AT
LEAST
MOST
OF YOU.

HEROES
SEEM TO BE
MEASURED
AGAINST THE
CALIBER OF
THE VILLAINS
THAT THEY
COMBAT ...

... AND I
AM ONE OF
THE **MIGHTIEST**
VILLAINS OF ALL
TIME ...

... FOR I
HAVE CAUSED
DEATHS OF
MILLIONS ... AND
DESTROYED **TWO**
WORLDS!

NOW!

HAZARD...
AND **ALVA...**
AND THEIR
LIKE ... ARE
FALTRY BY
COMPARISON.

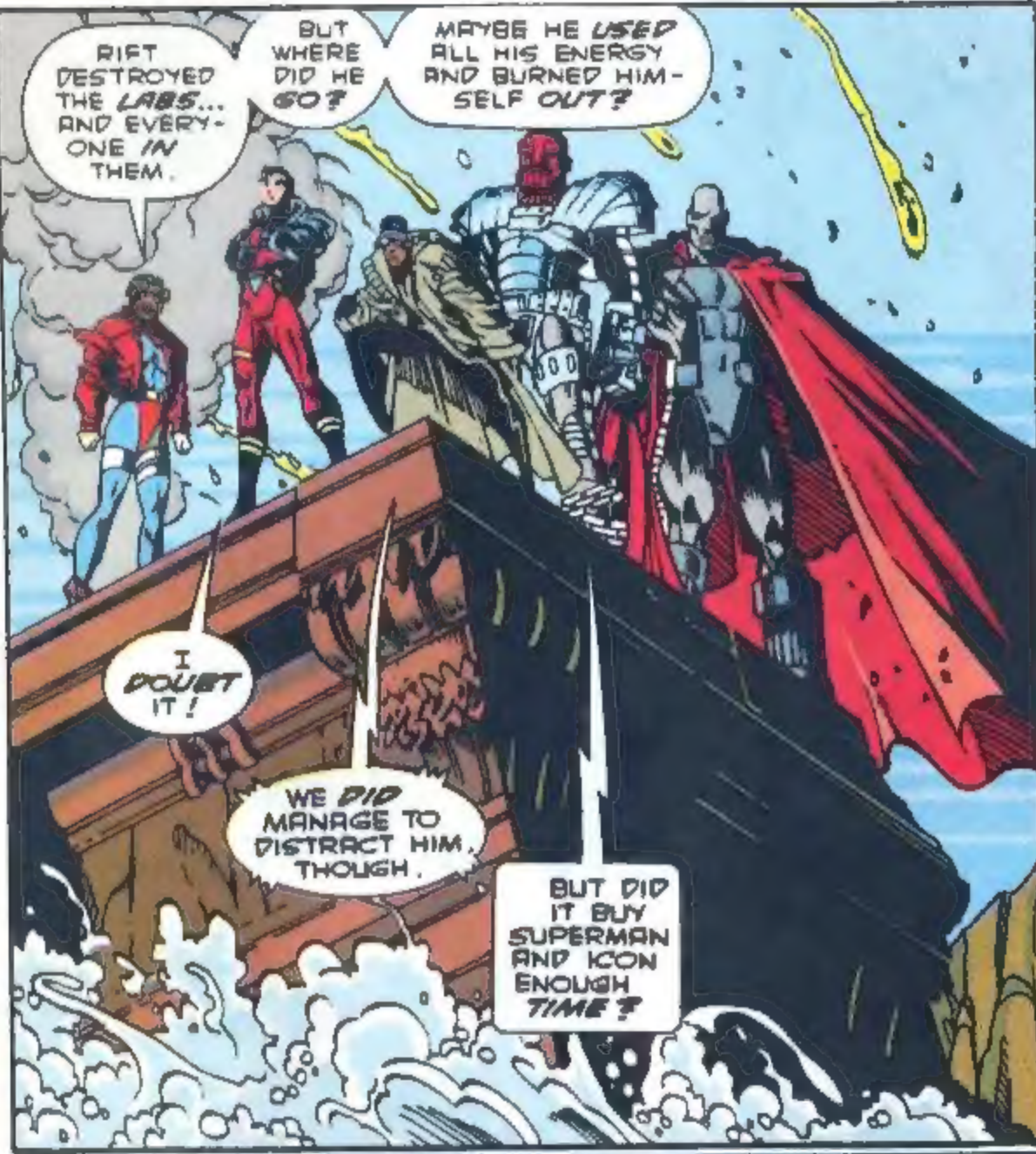
THEY
MUST
GO!



EXCELLENT!
AND FOR NOW,
I BID YOU ALL
FAREWELL!

OTHER ...
PERHAPS
LESSER HEROES
... REQUIRE MY
ATTENTION!

ABOUT
THAT... ONLY
TIME WILL
TELL!



RIFT DESTROYED THE LABS... AND EVERYONE IN THEM.

BUT WHERE DID HE GO?

MAYBE HE USED ALL HIS ENERGY AND BURNED HIMSELF OUT?

I DOUBT IT!

WE DID MANAGE TO DISTRACT HIM, THOUGH.

BUT DID IT BUY SUPERMAN AND ICON ENOUGH TIME?



IT WAS ENOUGH!

LOOK! LET'S GO!

"WHEN I DISCOVERED HAZARD'S TRUE COLORS, I WANTED TO DESTROY HIM.

"...HIS EFFORTS MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE WORLD."

"NOW HE'S GONE, AND, EVIL AS MANY OF HIS DEEDS HAVE BEEN ...

YES, STEEL, PERHAPS EVEN TWO WORLDS.

BUT TRANSIT WAS THERE WITH THEM. I WOULDN'T START SINGING EULOGIES FOR THEM JUST YET.



CONTINUED IN BLOOD #17! SYNDICATE